

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

No. 596

Washington, D. C.

April 11, 1936

Relabeling of Flood Damaged Canned Foods

The damage by water of stocks of canned foods in retail hands or in warehouses, with the consequent destruction of labels either by the water in which they were submerged or by the methods of reconditioning as recommended in the INFORMATION LETTER for March 28th, has raised questions as to the relabeling of such goods.

In most cases the canned foods damaged by water are being reconditioned under the supervision of local boards of health or other official agencies. It has now come to the Association's attention that individuals or firms engaged in the salvage business are making efforts to purchase damaged canned food stocks, apparently for the purpose of resale.

In some cases it is known that the damaged stocks are owned by canners who have placed them in warehouses, and in such cases canners will be in a position to handle these goods directly and insure that any relabeling is accurately and properly done. In a majority of instances, however, the goods are owned by distributors—wholesale or retail—and the relabeling in such cases will have to be done by the firms owning the goods or by salvage firms that may purchase them. This relabeling may be done on the individual responsibility of the owners or under the supervision of public officials.

In view of the possibility of misuse of labels, either deliberately or through negligence, canners who are asked to supply labels should take every precaution to make certain that labels go only to those who are entitled to receive them and who will insure their proper use.

Pea Aphid Control with Nicotine Dust

A statement describing the merits of nicotine dust and the limitations and conditions necessary for its successful use, has been issued by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture, as E-374. The making available of this information at this time is an outgrowth of the conference on aphid control organized by the Association's Raw Products Bureau and held in September, 1935, at Geneva, N. Y.

The mimeographed circular E-374 entitled "Present Status of Pea Aphid Control on Canning Peas, Its Possibilities and Limitations," together with the statement in the INFORMATION LETTER of April 4th regarding the use of derris, will be of interest to all pea canners who have experienced losses from aphid infestations.

What's Doing in Congress

No bills of interest to canners were advanced during the week on the floor of either house of Congress. Much of the time in the Senate was devoted to the impeachment trial of

Judge Ritter. The House passed the \$425,000,000 rural electrification bill already approved by the Senate. News of the more interesting of the pending bills follows:

Price-Discrimination Bills

The Patman Bill is still on the House Calendar, but the Rules Committee has taken no action toward ensuring early consideration on the floor. Proponents are planning to press the matter when Representative Utterback returns from Iowa on the 14th. New opposition to the bill has developed since the inclusion of the anti-basing-point provision (see INFORMATION LETTER for April 4th).

There has been no change in the situation in the Senate where the Robinson Bill is on the calendar awaiting action. A determined effort will be made to substitute the Borah-Van Nuys Bill when the Robinson Bill is brought up for consideration on the floor, but the outcome is still uncertain.

Healey-Walsh Bill

It is reported that the Healey subcommittee has practically finished rewriting the government-contracts bill and will pass it on soon to the full Judiciary Committee. The chances of getting approval from the full committee and then from the Rules Committee are not now considered to be favorable.

The redrafted bill is said to provide that administration of the act shall be under a three-man board appointed by the President rather than under the Secretary of Labor.

Tax Bill

Hearings on the tax bill before the House Ways and Means Committee were concluded during the week and the Committee is now at work drafting a bill to be reported out, it is said, in about ten days. It is commonly reported that excise taxes to replace the old processing taxes will not be included in the final draft and that the tax on undistributed corporate surpluses will be graduated and that special exceptions will be provided for debt-ridden corporations. In the Senate it is announced that hearings will be held as soon as the House bill is reported out, possibly within ten days. It is rather generally expected that the Senate will put back the excise taxes if they are left out in the House bill.

Report of Patman Investigation

A report on the activities of the American Retail Federation has been made by the special Patman Committee set up to investigate the Federation and the trade practices of big-scale wholesale and retail buying and selling organizations and their associations. The report deals only with the American Retail Federation and will be followed later by a report on trade practices of buying and selling organizations.

The Committee was divided four to three in its report on the Federation, the majority concluding that the purpose was to lead the public to believe that it represented small as well

as large dealers and thus gave it power to influence legislation, although in reality dominated by large chain and department stores. The minority reached the conclusion that the Federation differed from existing organizations only in having for its purpose the coordination of all retailers, whereas previously existing organizations have been confined to particular trades. The minority found "nothing to indicate an intention to trespass beyond ethical limitations in the presentation to Congress and the members thereof their views as to pending legislation."

Uniform Ocean Bill of Lading

The House on April 6th passed the Senate bill (S. 1152) relating to the carriage of goods by sea and providing for uniform bills of lading in foreign commerce. The bill will, therefore, become law when approved by the President.

On April 1, 1935, the Senate voted to ratify the Brussels Convention for the unification of certain rules relating to bills of lading signed on behalf of the United States in 1925, and this new act gives effect to the international convention. According to the Senate Commerce Committee's report on the measure, it is also desirable "for the further reason that there is some measure of doubt as to whether the rules of the convention would apply (1) as between an American shipper and an American steamship owner, and (2) as between American shippers and steamship owners belonging to countries which have not ratified the convention. This legislation supplements the convention in that it makes the convention provisions surely applicable to all carriers engaged in American trade when they are before American courts. It may be noted, also, that the enactment of a statute by the United States would be in conformity with the procedure of the nations which have heretofore ratified the convention."

The new act will supersede the present Harter Act from the time the goods are loaded on the ship until they are unloaded, but does not supersede or alter the old act in any other respect.

Status of Other Bills

COPELAND BILL.—No action as yet by the House subcommittee in charge of the bill to amend the Food and Drugs Act. There are rumors that it will be reported out late in the session.

ANTI-BASING-POINT BILL.—Hearings will continue for at least another week before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, but there seems to be a growing belief that the Wheeler Bill will not get very far this session. In the House, the companion Rayburn Bill has not been considered by the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

NEW BILL TO AMEND PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT.—Senator Walsh has introduced a bill (S. 4455) to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 so as to confer the administration and enforcement of Title II (packers) on the Federal Trade Commission instead of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Standard Fill of Container for Mushrooms

A standard requirement for fill of container of canned mushrooms was promulgated by the Department of Agriculture under date of March 21st, effective 90 days from that date.

The following paragraphs are inserted after paragraph 79 of S.R.A., F.D.No. 4, Revision 3:

80. Canned mushrooms are of standard fill with respect to packing medium when the drained weight of mushrooms equals or exceeds the following amounts:

Overall dimensions sealed can		Trade designation	Drained mushrooms Ounces
Diameter Inches	Height Inches		
2½	2¼	202 x 204	2
2½	2	208 x 200	2.4
2½ ¹ / ₁₆	2¾	211 x 212	4
2½ ¹ / ₁₆	3½	211 x 304	4.9
2½ ¹ / ₁₆	4	211 x 400	6.1
2½ ¹ / ₁₆	4½	215 x 408	8.5
3	4	300 x 400	8
3	4¾ ¹ / ₁₆	300 x 407	8.8
3¾ ¹ / ₁₆	4½	307 x 408	11.8
3¾ ¹ / ₁₆	4¾ ¹ / ₁₆	307 x 409	12

Pending the issuance of standard fill requirements for cans of less usual sizes, mushrooms in cans of a size not mentioned above will be regarded as of standard fill with respect to packing medium when the drained weight of mushrooms equals or exceeds 1 ounce for each 3 cubic inches inside capacity of the container. Drained weight is determined by draining the contents of the container 2 minutes on an 8-mesh sieve, with the sieve tilted as much as possible without shifting of the mushrooms. The solids remaining on the sieve are transferred to a dish and their weight determined.

SUBSTANDARD FILL STATEMENT

81. Canned mushrooms which fail to meet the above requirement shall bear the substandard statement in the form and manner prescribed in paragraph 10 (2).

NOTE ON DECLARATION OF WEIGHT ON CANNED MUSHROOMS

82. The prevailing custom of declaring quantity of contents of canned mushrooms is in terms of drained weight. This being at variance with the usual practice of declaring total net contents of canned foods with an edible packing medium, declaration should be made in such form as to leave no possibility of consumer deception or confusion. "Drained Mushrooms — oz." is regarded as a satisfactory type of statement.

The paragraph (10) above referred to, regarding form of statement required on canned foods of substandard fill follows:

10. Canned foods which fail to meet the above standard shall bear the substandard statement, in the form and manner prescribed in paragraph 1. The first line of the legend shall be "Below U. S. Standard." The explanatory statement shall be:

(1) In the case of excess head space only:

"Slack Fill"

(2) In the case of excess packing medium, whether or not the head space is excessive, the two-line statement:

"Slack Fill

Contains Excess Added Liquid"

Forecast of April-June Freight Movement

Freight car loadings in the second quarter of 1936 are expected to be about 9.5 per cent greater than the actual load-

ings in the corresponding quarter of 1935, according to estimates of the Shippers Regional Advisory Boards. Loadings of canned goods, including canned food products and ketchup, jams, jellies, olives, pickles, preserves, etc., is estimated, will total 34,858 car-loads during the second quarter of 1936 as compared with actual loadings of 31,155 cars during the corresponding quarter of the preceding year. This is an estimated increase of 11.9 per cent.

Regulations for Tin-Plate Scrap Exports

Regulations governing the exportation of tin-plate scrap were issued April 4th by the Secretary of State, who by Executive Order of February 26th, was authorized as chairman of the National Munitions Control Board to formulate regulations and grant export licenses. The regulations announce that blank forms of application for export licenses can be obtained from the Secretary of State, but that no licenses will be issued between April 16th and July 1st. The term "tin-plate scrap" is construed, provisionally, to mean tin-plate clippings, cuttings, stampings, trimmings, skeleton sheets, and all other miscellaneous pieces of discarded tin plate, which result from (1) the manufacture of tin plate, or (2) the manufacture of tin-bearing articles from tin plate. As thus defined, the term "tin-plate scrap" does not include tin-plate waste, tin-plate circles, tin-plate strips, tin-plate cobbles, and tin-plate scroll shear butts, when packed separately and sold as such, and when not intermingled with tin-plate scrap.

Federal Unemployment Compensation Tax Regulations

In the past three issues of the INFORMATION LETTER articles have appeared discussing the new tax regulations under the Federal Social Security Act. These articles dealt with the measure, scope and imposition of the tax. The remaining provisions of the Regulations deal with technical problems having to do with the collection of the tax, and for this reason an extended analysis would be of little interest. This final article, therefore, will merely point out in a general way the problems involved, and it is suggested that the individual canners read carefully these sections of the Regulations.

Credit of Contributions Against Tax

Under the Act and Art. 211 of the Regulations, an employer who makes contributions under a State law which has been approved by the Federal Social Security Board may credit the total amount of these contributions against the tax imposed under the Federal Act. The total credit which may be allowed, however, may not exceed 90 per cent of the tax against which it is applied. Such contributions made under State laws may be credited only if they have been actually paid prior to the date on which the Federal return is required to be filed. This date is January 31st next following the close of the calendar year. Thus, if an employer files his Federal return on January 31, 1937, covering employment during 1936 and thereafter, makes additional contributions to a State fund with respect to employment during 1936, no part of these additional contributions is allowable as credit.

The contributions must also have been made with respect to employment as defined in the Federal Act (see INFORMATION LETTER of March 28th, p. 4892, for a discussion of the meaning of "employment"). If, for example, the State Act re-

quires contributions with respect to services performed by domestic servants in a private home, such contributions could not be credited against the Federal tax, as such services do not come within the Federal definition of "employment."

The contributions must have been paid with respect to services performed during the calendar year covered by the Federal return. Thus, an employer in filing his return for the year 1936 could not credit State contributions made with respect to employment during 1935. The importance of this provision was pointed out in the INFORMATION LETTER of March 21st at p. 4882.

It also should be noted that where employee contributions are required under a State Act and the employer pays these and deducts the amount from the wages of his employees, no credit may be taken for such payments by the employer.

Returns

Articles 300 through 306 deal with returns which must be filed under this Act. They are to be made on a prescribed form, which may be obtained from the Collector of Internal Revenue, and must be filed not later than January 31st next following the close of the calendar year. Thus the first return required under the new Federal Act must be filed on January 31, 1937.

Records

Article 307 deals with the records which the employer must keep under the Act. No particular form of record or method of accounting is required. Each employer may keep his records in the manner best suited to his own business provided that they clearly and accurately show the following information:

"(1) The total amount of remuneration payable to his employees in cash or in a medium other than cash, showing separately, (a) total remuneration payable with respect to services excepted by section 907(c), (b) total remuneration payable with respect to services performed outside of the United States, (c) total remuneration payable with respect to all other services.

"(2) The amount of contributions paid by him into any State unemployment fund, with respect to services during the calendar year not excepted by section 907(c), showing separately (a) payments made and not deducted (or to be deducted) from the remuneration of employees, (b) payments made and deducted (or to be deducted) from the remuneration of employees; and also the amount of contributions paid by him into any State unemployment fund with respect to services excepted by section 907(c).

"(3) The information required to be shown on the prescribed return and the extent to which such person is liable for the tax."

In cases where the employer does not employ enough persons to be subject to the Act, he must keep accurate records of all individuals employed throughout the year in order that he may be able to clearly establish that he is not an employer subject to the tax. The Regulations also provide that the records must be preserved for a period of at least four years from the due date of the tax for the calendar year to which they relate.

Payment of the Tax

Articles 400 through 403 describe the methods of paying the tax. The tax is due and payable to the Collector of Internal Revenue on the date fixed by law for filing the return

(31st day of January following the close of each calendar year). The tax may at the option of the taxpayer be paid in four equal instalments instead of in a single payment, in which case the first instalment is to be paid on or before January 31st, the second instalment on or before April 30th, the third instalment on or before July 31st, and the fourth instalment on or before October 31st. In certain extreme cases where it may be shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue that the payment of the tax on the due date would result in undue hardship to the taxpayer, the Commissioner may grant an extension of time for the payment of the tax for a period not to exceed six months. To constitute undue hardship, it must appear that a substantial financial loss would be suffered by the taxpayer if forced to pay the tax on the due date. As a condition precedent to the granting of such an extension, the Commissioner may require the taxpayer to furnish a bond in an amount not exceeding double the amount of the tax. In addition, the taxpayer must pay interest at the rate of one-half of 1 per cent per month during the extended period.

Interest and Penalties

(See Art. 502) Upon failure to file a return when due, the taxpayer becomes liable to a penalty of from 5 to 25 per cent of the amount of the tax, depending upon the period of delinquency. If the tax is not paid when it becomes due, interest accrues at the rate of one-half of 1 per cent a month until the tax is paid. If the tax has not been paid and assessment has been made, a penalty of 5 per cent is then added. In cases of willful failure to file returns or to pay the tax, criminal penalties are imposed and the taxpayer may be subjected to a fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment, or both.

Derris, Cubé and Rotenone

Pea canners and growers have followed with much interest the recent experiments of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture, on the use of derris as a possible control for pea aphid. As reports of this work have come to the attention of canners, several new words have appeared, including derris, cubé and rotenone. What they mean separately and in relation to each other is explained in the following paragraphs.

Derris and cubé are the names of two plants or groups of plants, remarkable for the fact that their roots contain substances highly poisonous to many forms of life including numerous insects and fish, but relatively non-toxic to human beings and the warm-blooded animals.

Rotenone is the name of a complex chemical derived by extraction from both derris root and cubé root, and containing in comparatively pure form much of the toxic property of the roots. In general, rotenone bears the same relation to derris and cubé that nicotine bears to tobacco.

There are 40 or more species of derris, not all of which have insecticidal value. The rotenone content is extremely variable, ranging from 0.5 to 10 per cent or more. Some lots of derris, however, may contain no rotenone.

Derris, or tuba root, is far more abundant in the old world than in tropical America. Tuba is a term used by the Malays to denote various plants that possess fish-poisoning properties. Derris elliptica Benth. is the most powerful of these plants. Two varieties are known to the natives in

Borneo. They are called tuba berabut, a shrub, and tuba ja jaran, a creeper. Tuba berabut (derris elliptica) is more generally used. The poison is extracted from the bark of the creeper and from the roots of the shrub.

The plant is low-climbing and is propagated by cuttings which grow fairly rapidly. The roots mature according to cultural conditions, the average period of growth being two years. According to one investigator, the leaves, flowers and young shoots of derris are inert, but the roots, and usually the stem, are quite active insecticidally.

Tuba fishing is made a great occasion by all the tribes and furnishes almost as fruitful a topic of conversation as a war expedition. The tuba root is scorched over a fire to make it more virulent, and the roots are then pounded to a pulp and swashed round and squeezed out in some of the smaller canoes which have been half filled with water. Clay or lime is mixed with the poison to make it sink and spread through the water. The poison causes the fish to come to the surface of the water. As they do not die at once, but dart hither and thither to evade the poison, there is not a little sport in spearing them or scooping them up in nets. It seems to kill the fish by suffocation and does not injure them for food.

Chinese gardeners have been known to chop the fresh roots of this plant, mix them with water and brush the mixture with a bunch of feathers over crops infested with various insects. Its first use as an insecticide was reported in 1848 when the leaves of nutmeg were washed with a decoction of "tuba root" to control several species of insects.

Derris root was sent to the United States in commercial quantity for the first time in 1928, the shipment amounting to 2,000 pounds. It is reported that in the calendar year 1934, 1,000,000 pounds were imported into this country. The selling price of powdered derris is usually a few cents higher than that of cubé.

Plants belonging to the same genera as derris and cubé root also grow in the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, tropical South America, tropical and southern Africa, Madagascar and Australia. For the most part, the 40 species of Lonchocarpus found in middle America are not found elsewhere, and 7 or 8 of them are listed as fish poisons by authorities.

Cubé is a Peruvian word which has two meanings, (1) any fish poison plant, and (2) any species of shrub or tree belonging to the genus Lonchocarpus, and more especially *L. nicou*. It is used by the natives to stupefy fish in much the same manner as that employed in Malay and Borneo.

At present about 90 per cent of the world's supply of cubé comes from the eastern part of Peru, and Iquitos on the Amazon is the principal port from which it is exported, being the center of cultivation. Plantings vary greatly in size, from small clearings of 25 to as many as 10,000 trees. This species grows best in fairly open well-drained, sandy soil, and is propagated by means of cuttings, a piece of the stem about a foot long being placed horizontally a few inches below the surface. The cuttings grow rapidly and at the end of the fourth year the plants may be as much as 15 feet high. In general appearance they greatly resemble coffee plants.

The roots are usually dug at the end of the second, third, or fourth year. The root system of a single individual is

very large, one from a plant 2 years old may weigh 3 pounds when fresh and 1½ pounds when dry.

The rotenone content of the root varies according to the age of the plant and the altitude at which it is grown, and may range from 0.5 to more than 10 per cent.

Cubé became commercially available in the United States in 1932 and was first advertised here in 1934. During that year it is estimated that 500,000 pounds, described in entries as cubé, barbasco and timbo, were imported into this country.

Rotenone and deguelin, constituents of derris roots and of other fish-poison plants belonging to the same family, account for the greater part of the insecticidal action of the material, but other toxic constituents of unknown composition are also present. Prices of derris, as well as its extracts, are at present largely based on the rotenone content of the root.

While experimental work on derris as a control for pea aphid are not yet sufficient to afford a basis for recommendations, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued a brief mimeographed statement (E-375) for the guidance of canners and others who contemplate making experimental tests during the coming season. This statement was published in the Association's INFORMATION LETTER of April 4, 1936.

Shipments of Cuban Vegetables

Exports of winter vegetables from Cuba to the United States in February totaled 18,621,455 pounds, or a decline of 5,700,000 pounds from the record shipments of January, according to the American consul at Habana. Heavy rains during the month adversely affected all winter vegetable crops. Substantial shipments of tomatoes were expected to be made during March and April unless further crop damage occurs.

Up to the end of February there had been a 30 per cent increase in vegetable exports from Cuba as compared with the movement during the same period last season (November-February). The total movement during this period amounted to 63,582,191 pounds against 49,279,664 in the same months last season. All items showed increases. Exports of tomatoes amounted to 44,393,633 pounds against 38,711,549 last season. Shipments of lima beans increased to 6,003,125 compared with 2,970,732 pounds in the corresponding period in 1934-35. Other items of importance were eggplant, green peppers, cucumbers, okra, and potatoes.

Outlines Position on Pending Food Law Revision

In a letter to *Printers' Ink*, reproduced in this week's issue of that publication, Miss Alice Edwards of the American Home Economics Association outlines the position of that organization and eleven other organizations for whom she states she speaks, with respect to the pending revision of the Food and Drugs Act. The letter to *Printers' Ink* says:

"We earnestly desire the passage of an amended S. 5.

"We consider that it is essential that the seizure provision be changed to conform to the present practice. Of course, this change would include the deletion of the provision that makes it possible for the claimant to require that all trials in

connection with seizures of his product be held in the court in the district where he resides.

"The so-called variations clause should be so amended as to require that a drug product varying from the standard set forth in official compendiums be labeled to indicate in what way it varies.

"We also consider it extremely important that the enforcement of the advertising provisions be left in the hands of the Food and Drug Administration, instead of being transferred to the Federal Trade Commission as is urged by certain drug and cosmetic manufacturers.

"We consider it highly desirable that everything possible be done to bring about the enactment of a properly amended S. 5 during the present session of Congress.

"We know that Congressmen are receiving many letters from their consumer constituents, urging the enactment of a suitable bill for the consumers' protection. We appreciate the fact that many commercial groups that formerly opposed this legislation now have withdrawn their opposition. We wish that more of them might become energetic supporters, aiding consumers in obtaining the enactment of a bill fair to producers, distributors, and consumers alike. We feel that enactment of such legislation would be of advantage, not alone to consumers, but to all reputable manufacturers and would, of course, set the stage for the renewal of consumer confidence in advertising."

Besides the Home Economics Association, the groups for which Miss Edwards speaks are: the American Association of University Women, the American Dietetic Association, the American Nurses' Association, the Girls' Friendly Society, the Medical Women's National Association, the National Board of the Y. W. C. A., the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the National Council of Jewish Women, the National League of Women Voters, the National Women's Trade Union League, and the Women's Homeopathic Medical Fraternity.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

Commodity	Week ending April 4		Week ending Mar. 28		Total for season through April 4	
	1935	1936	1936	1935	1936	
Vegetables:						
Beans, snap and						
lima	350	154	143	5,012	4,252	
Tomatoes	951	500	551	3,304	3,432	
Green peas	68	55	56	1,406	1,583	
Spinach	206	349	335	4,316	6,156	
Others:						
Domestic, competing directly	4,122	4,622	4,799	145,343	257,893	
Imports—						
Competing directly	78	67	72	673	938	
Competing indirectly	17	21	26	1,046	1,804	
Fruits:						
Citrus, domestic ..	3,893	3,309	3,443	80,742	72,594	
Imports	5	10	10	248	429	
Others, domestic ..	237	490	306	18,481	16,165	

Relief Canning in Indiana

The garden and canning program of the Indiana State Emergency Relief Administration is based on individual gar-

dens, supplemented by mass production gardens in larger communities where such type of gardens is justified from the standpoint of direct relief needs, according to a report received by the Association. Under this program there has been canned to supply families on direct relief who would otherwise not have been able to have an adequate supply of canned vegetables, more than one million cans of vegetable products. In addition, home canning by individual families under the relief program amounted to three million quart jars in 1935.

The following table summarizes statistics on this work as compiled by the director of the Garden and Food Conservation Division of the Indiana Unemployment Relief Commission:

	1933	1934	1935
Number of individual gardens.	72,830	97,628	127,210
Individual garden acreage....	9,103	13,124	16,727
Value individual garden products.....	\$1,820,750	\$2,440,700	\$3,180,250
Home canning (quart jars)...	1,457,000	2,500,000	3,250,000
Number of mass garden projects	42	58	67
Mass garden acreage.....	1,120	1,731	2,075
Value mass garden products..	\$125,000	\$215,000	\$275,000
Number mass canning centers.	15	42	51
Mass canning (No. 2½ cans)...	750,000	1,250,000	1,520,000

The labels on products packed in the community canning centers carry the following wording: "For Unemployment Relief Use Only. Packed In Community Canning Center Operated under Project Authorized by Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief, State of Indiana. Not To Be Sold."

Department Store Sales in March

Department store sales increased from February to March by considerably more than the usual seasonal amount and the Federal Reserve System's Index, which makes allowances for seasonal changes, advanced from 80 per cent of the 1923-1925 average to 88 per cent. Total sales for the month of March as well as for the first quarter of the year were 9 per cent larger than for the corresponding periods of last year.

Home Canning in Virginia

The Extension Division in the State of Virginia reports, in the Virginia Home Economics Association News Letter of March 8th, that 2,606,214 quarts of food were canned under the direction of extension workers in 1935. The following paragraph from the News Letter will be of interest.

"In the food work there were 7,253 families living at home, that is, raising all the food possible, or practical, for the family needs. There were 2,606,214 quarts of food canned and 91,032 pounds of fruits and vegetables dried under the direction of home demonstration agents with a total value of \$629,733. Much interest has been developed through the home demonstration program in the home canning of meats. In 1935, 202,864 quarts of meat were canned for home use. This supply has a conservatively estimated value of \$101,432."

This food was canned on a program entirely apart from the subsistence garden program. The families with whom the extension workers are dealing represent the comparatively privileged class of rural communities, while the subsistence garden group were all on relief.

Grading of Canning Crops in Pennsylvania

The Bureau of Markets of the Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture at Harrisburg has issued a mimeographed report on the grading of canning crops in Pennsylvania during the 1935 season.

The report includes tabular statements showing the volume of various canning crops inspected for each year from 1929 to 1935 inclusive; average grade classification of Pennsylvania's bulk apples 1930-1935; list of canneries at which tomatoes were graded in 1935 and classification of graded tomatoes 1927-1935; comparison of tomato quality as shown by proportion of U. S. No. 1, No. 2 and culls, in 10 states designated by letters; prices paid per ton for U. S. No. 1 and No. 2 tomatoes and 1935 season average at Pennsylvania canneries; prices received in Pennsylvania in 1935 for graded and ungraded tomatoes, corn and peas.

The report also contains records of 10-ton tomato clubs, 1935, and brief paragraphs on grading of cherries, sweet corn, peas and grapes for juice, together with a statement on supervision and cost of cannery products inspection. The report concludes with a classified list of Pennsylvania canners of principal fruits and vegetables.

Copies may be obtained from the Bureau of Markets, Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg, Pa.

Sweet Corn Trials in Connecticut

A report of the progress of sweet corn trials made in 1935 at Mt. Carmel, Conn., has been issued by the genetics department of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven. Tables are included giving the results obtained with varieties of yellow and white sweet corn and crosses of many different types. A number of open-pollinated and hybrid varieties are recommended for planting in 1936. Complete descriptions of the performance of these varieties are given, including the source, number of days to average silking, ear length, number of rows, average weight of marketable ears, and number of ears per acre, both marketable and unmarketable. The report states that almost all of the hybrids will prove resistant to bacterial wilt. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Genetics, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, Conn.

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